(c) whether Government had in January, 2003 announced that the Industries to be set up in these States up to 2013 will get the benefits under the package;

(d) whether Government have now decided to allow benefits to the Industrial units to be set up before; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this shift in policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Government had announced New Industrial Policies and other concessions for Special Cagegory States of Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal on 14.06.2002, 23.12.2002 and 07.01.2003 respectively. Under the policies, various concessions/incentives have been provided to these States like income tax exemption, excise exemption, Central Capital Investment subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and Central Comprehensive Insurance. The concessions under Industrial Policy for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal issued on 07.01.2003 were originally available for 10 years from the date of commencement of commercial production. However, the Ministry of Finance, Department of revenue have curtailed this validity period up to 31.03.2007 in so far as the concession of excise exemption is concerned.

Suggestions of India and Brazil on Doha round negotiations

†3064. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India and Brazil have jointly suggested for World Trade's "Doha Round Negotiations" to be held in Manila that fifty per cent reduction in the tariff on the products of America and European countries would be considered, provided America and European countries agree to reduce tariff on agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held on this suggestion; and

(c) the reaction of America and European countries thereto and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India and Brazil have

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

not made any proposal linking tariff reduction on industrial goods for products of America and European Union to reduction of tariffs on agricultural products.

(b) and (c) does not arise.

Business agreement with European countries and North America

†3065. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a business agreement with European countries and North America as a Free Trade Zone;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) the names of the countries having Free Trade Agreement with India in addition to the above countries;

(d) the percentage of tax rebate under the agreement;

(e) whether foreign trade has taken place during the past few years with the above mentioned countries; and

(f) if so, the value of export and import taken place with each of the countries during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No Sir,

(b) In the India-EU Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan adopted at the 6th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on 7-9-2005, India and EU have, *inter alia,* agreed to establish a High Level Trade Group to study and explore ways and means to deepen and widen bilateral trade and investment relationship. Commerce Secretary and Director General Trade, European Commission have since been identified as Co-Chair of the High Level Trade Group and preliminary interaction have been held.

India have two institutional arrangements with the United States *viz.* India-United States Commercial Dialogue and India United States Trade Policy Forum and Trade Policy consultations between India and Canada.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.